



07 October 2024

## Newcastle Building Society appoints manager to head up new Pickering branch

**Vanessa Buckle has been appointed as the manager of Newcastle Building Society's new Pickering branch, set to open later this month.**

Despite a national trend of bank branch closures which has seen several banks leave high streets across North Yorkshire, Newcastle Building Society is choosing to open a new full-service branch in Pickering as part of its commitment to investing heavily in the provision of face-to-face services and restoring essential banking services in towns abandoned by high street banks.

Pickering local, Vanessa, is on the board of the town's community interest company (CiC) and chair of Pickering Rocks, its annual community music festival. With over 30 years of experience in financial services previously working for Lloyds, Nationwide, AIG and MoneySuperMarket, Vanessa will now lead the team at Newcastle Building Society's latest branch to provide local residents and businesses with much needed financial services in their communities.

The arrival of Newcastle Building Society's Pickering branch comes just months after news of the closure of the last bank branch in Pickering, with Barclays citing falling customer usage and increased preference for digital banking behind its decision to close in January 2025.

The branch will also include a OneBanx kiosk which enables small businesses and personal customers of any bank that offers open banking to deposit and withdraw cash from their accounts – a lifeline for residents, visitors, and businesses in the town who continue to use cash and rely on convenient access to their account.

Vanessa said: "I'm so passionate about Pickering and how we can maintain our vibrant high street and thriving local economy. Newcastle Building Society's commitments very much align

with my own core values and beliefs and the team at our Market Place branch are all committed to delivering the best possible face-to-face service for our members. I look forward to making our new branch a central part of the local community in Pickering.”

As well as investing in its branch network, over recent years Newcastle Building Society has opened in several new locations, helping to restore access to financial services in communities where banks have left town. This includes their innovative community partnership branches in Yarm, Wooler, Hawes, and Knaresborough which share space with other local services such as libraries, tourist information and even community police officers.

John Hicks, Head of Branch Network at Newcastle Building Society, said: “We’re pleased to have Vanessa leading the team at our new branch in Pickering with her enthusiasm and customer and community focus. Her passion for the town and local knowledge of its people and businesses will no doubt help her in successfully leading what we hope will become a vibrant high street branch.”

For more information about Newcastle Building Society’s branch investment programme and to find your nearest branch, visit [www.newcastle.co.uk](http://www.newcastle.co.uk)

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**For further information on Newcastle Building Society, please contact:**

**Chris Hoy – External Communications Manager**

M: 07483 452 461

E: [chris.hoy@newcastle.co.uk](mailto:chris.hoy@newcastle.co.uk)

**Jeremy Mountain – External Communications Lead**

M: 07977 290 598

E: [jeremy.mountain@newcastle.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.mountain@newcastle.co.uk)

### **About Newcastle Building Society**

Newcastle Building Society is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 31 branches and assets of more than £6.2bn. We’ve been here for our members for over 160 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and won the Excellence and Positive Impact Award at the 2022 CIPD North East of England HR&D Awards. We have been named Regional Building Society of the Year for seven consecutive years from 2017 – 2023 by What Mortgage? and also won Best Overall Personal Finance Brand at the Personal Finance Awards 2023/24. In 2024 Newcastle Building Society became the first UK business to receive international accreditation for mutual value measurement, recognising our ongoing commitment to creating value for its members and communities.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and, as our branch network grows, we are increasingly proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our regions.

Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited subsidiary. Face-to-face financial advice is available at each of the Society's 31 branches, with another full-service branch arriving in Pickering, North Yorkshire, later in 2024. For the third year running, Newcastle Financial Advisers has been awarded Top Rated Firm status by VouchedFor - the UK's leading review site for Financial Advisers.

We're dedicated to helping our communities make positive changes; since 1995 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £1.7m. Our total community contributions in 2023, made up of grants, match funding, and our ongoing partnership donations, was more than £350,000.

Newcastle Building Society is committed to creating a culture of belonging, where people can bring their whole self to work and be respected and valued for who they are. Our colleague-run networks include the Race Network, LGBTQ+ Network the Disability and Awareness Network, Women in Leadership Network, Menopause Network and Parent and Carers Network, all of which help steer Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy within the organisation.

[www.newcastle.co.uk](http://www.newcastle.co.uk)

Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ.

Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768.